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eagle creek & wolf creek

STATE PARKS
AT LAKE SHELBYVILLE

EAGLE CREEK AND WOLF CREEK STATE PARKS

Eagle Creek State Park and Wolf Creek State Park, both in Shelby County between Findlay and Shelbyville, are two of several recreational areas that have been developed at the Shelbyville Reservoir.

The 2,313-acre Eagle Creek and the 1,966-acre Wolf Creek are managed by the Department of Conservation and were originally named Illinois State Parks West and East.

HISTORY

The Shelbyville Reservoir Project was authorized in Congress by the Flood Control Act of July 3, 1958, to develop the Kaskaskia River Basin for flood control, water supply and downstream water quality control, fish and wildlife conservation, and for multi-recreational areas. The Kaskaskia Valley Association was the guiding force for about 30 years for the development of the river basin.

Before the actual work on the dam started at Shelbyville, several old coal mines in the path of the excavation had to be filled with grout. Cemeteries in the path of the lake were moved to other areas. Two gas and oil pipelines and roads were relocated. Construction of the Findlay bridge began and the old Shelby Power Plant was demolished. Land was cleared and leveled on the west side of the channel which hugs the bluff to the east of the river bottom.

Construction of the $56 million project was started in May 1963. Water was impounded in the summer of 1970. The main dam is an earthen embankment 110 feet above the stream bed, with 3,025-foot overall length and a reinforced concrete spillway that is gate controlled. The Shelbyville Reservoir covers parts of Shelby and Moultrie counties, has 11,100 surface acres of water with a flood control pool of 25,300 acres and 250 miles of shoreline.

During the construction the U.S. Corps of Engineers also recognized the spectator interest. High on a hill on the north side of Illinois 16, they erected a small brick building so the "hilltop engineers" could watch the progress.

Shelbyville Reservoir, the second dam built across the Kaskaskia River, is approximately 60 air-miles north of the initial dam at Carlyle. Because the river valley here is narrower than at Carlyle, the lake is not as massive, but it is deeper. The rugged and very hilly terrain at Shelbyville causes an irregular shoreline that enhances the beauty of the lake.

FACILITIES

Picnicking: Picnic tables, park stoves and parking accommodations are at 4 picnic areas at each park. Water fountains and toilet facilities are conveniently located.

Fishing: Shorelines with flooded brush, timber or rock rip-rap; points with submerged ridges, and tributary streams seem to be the most productive fishing areas. The large impoundment contains black crappie, largemouth and smallmouth bass, walleye, channel catfish and bluegill. Additional sport fishing is provided by white bass, northern pike, bullhead, drum, bowfin, carp, sunfish and flathead catfish.

Boating: A 4-lane launching ramp is adjacent to a 175-car parking lot in each area. Rental boats are not available at either site. Motors are allowed. Boat fishing is popular and skiing is permitted in designated areas.

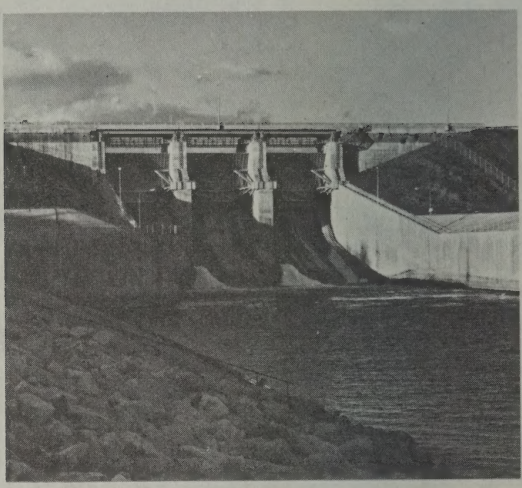
Camping: Wolf Creek has 297 campsites, electricity and a sanitary disposal station. Eagle Creek has 159 campsites, electricity, a sanitary disposal station, and an area for youth group camping. In both parks, all campers must obtain a permit from the park staff before entering the campground. All groups of 25 persons need advance permission to enter the park.

Hunting: A variety of hunting is permitted in selected areas of both Eagle Creek and Wolf Creek. In addition, the Department of Conservation leases for wildlife management approximately 3,500 acres of land located on the Kaskaskia arm of the reservoir and 2,500 acres located on the West Okaw River. Both areas offer deer, squirrel, rabbit and quail hunting, as well as a limited amount of impounded water to attract waterfowl. Shotguns only are permitted and there is no hunting in recreation areas.

Check with the Ranger or Refuge Manager for species, shooting times and dates.

Nearby: The Corps of Engineers operates 10 Access Areas that offer a variety of facilities. In addition to the 2 state parks, the Department of Conservation manages 2 wildlife areas. Three marinas are available for public use at Lithia Springs, Fox Harbor near Sullivan and Findlay Marina, Inc., just east of Findlay.

Please: This area is for all to enjoy so help keep it clean. Put all litter in the nearest available trash container. No flowers, plants, shrubs or trees may be removed or damaged. If you need help or have a question, contact the Ranger.



FOR YOUR INFORMATION . . .

Admittance will not be granted groups of 25 or more persons to any state park or conservation area unless permission from the park ranger has been secured to use the facilities. It is also required that groups of minors have adequate supervision and that at least one responsible adult accompany each group not exceeding 15 minors. All pets must be on a leash.

Numerous state parks and memorials are within easy access of every part of the state. Lodges, cabins and dining rooms are important features of Illinois Beach, Starved Rock, Pere Marquette, White Pines Forest and Giant City. Reservations for lodging should be made with lodge managers.

All state parks are open the year round. When weather conditions necessitate the closing of park roads during freezing and thawing periods, access to park facilities is by foot only.

For more details about this site, contact Ranger, 103 West South Second Street, Findlay, Illinois 62534, phone 217/756-8260. For information on other Illinois sites, write the Department of Conservation, Information/Education Division, State Office Building, Springfield 62706.

Park Maps

Findlay
Bruce
Picnic Area
Youth Group Camping Area
Park Entrance
Bridge
Wolf Creek Inlet
Park Information Center
Sanitary Dumping Station
Equestrian Nature Trail
Campground Entrance
Camping Area
Boat Launch
Equestrian Camping Area
Youth Group Camping Area
EAGLE CREEK
LAKE SHELBYVILLE
Eagle Creek Inlet
Picnic Area
Park Entrance & Information Center
Campground Entrance
Sanitary Dumping Station
Scenic Overlook
Camping Area
Sand Creek Inlet
Camping Areas
Hiking Trails
WOLF CREEK
Boat Launch
Picnic Area
Bethany
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Sullivan
128
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Findlay
Bruce
Eagle Creek State Park
Wolf Creek State Park
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Shelbyville

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